

## CLAIMS

1. A retarder comprising:

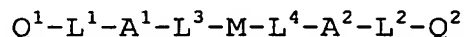
a substrate, and on or above the substrate

a first optically anisotropic layer formed of a composition comprising a rod-like liquid-crystal compound, in which the rod-like molecules are aligned homogeneously, and substantially generating a phase difference of  $\pi$  at 550 nm, and

a second optically anisotropic layer formed of a composition comprising a rod-like liquid-crystal compound, in which the rod-like molecules are aligned homogeneously, and substantially generating a phase difference of  $\pi/2$  at 550 nm;

wherein at least one of the rod-like liquid-crystal compounds is denoted by Formula (I) below;

Formula (I)

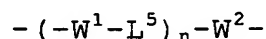


where,  $Q^1$  and  $Q^2$  respectively denote a polymerizable group;  $L^1$ ,  $L^2$ ,  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  respectively denote a single bond or a divalent linking group provided that at least either of  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  represents  $-O-CO-O-$ ;  $A^1$  and  $A^2$  respectively denote C2-20 spacer group, and M denotes a mesogen group; and

an in-plane slow axis of the second optically anisotropic layer and an in-plane slow axis of the first optically anisotropic layer cross substantially at 60 degrees.

2. The retarder of claim 1, wherein M in the Formula (I) is a group denoted by Formula (II):

Formula (II)



where,  $W^1$  and  $W^2$  respectively denote a divalent alicyclic group, divalent aromatic group or divalent heterocyclic group;  $L^5$  denotes a single bond or a linking group; and n is 1, 2 or 3.

3. The retarder of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a longitudinal direction, the in-plane slow axis of the first optically anisotropic layer and the longitudinal direction of the transparent substrate cross substantially at +30 degrees; and the in-plane slow axis of the second optically anisotropic layer and the longitudinal direction of the transparent substrate cross substantially at -30 degrees.

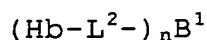
4. The retarder of claim 3, wherein a rubbing axis for predetermining an orientation angle of the rod-like molecules in the first optically anisotropic layer and the longitudinal direction of the transparent substrate cross substantially at 30 degrees; and a rubbing axis for predetermining an orientation angle of the rod-like molecules in the second optically anisotropic layer and the longitudinal direction of the transparent substrate cross substantially at -30 degrees.

5. The retarder of claim 4, wherein a surface of the first optically anisotropic layer has the rubbing axis for predetermining an orientation angle of the rod-like molecules in the second optically anisotropic layer.

6. The retarder of claim 1, wherein at least one of the optically anisotropic layers comprises a compound denoted by

Formula (V) :

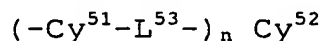
Formula (V)



where Hb denotes a C6-40 aliphatic group or oligosiloxanoxy group having a C4-40 aliphatic group;  $\text{L}^2$  represents a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR<sup>5</sup>-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, an alkylene group, alkenylene group, arylene group and any combinations thereof; R<sup>5</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a C1-6 alkyl group; n represents an integer from 2 to 12; and B<sup>1</sup> represents an n-valent group containing at least three cyclic structures, so that the rod-like molecules in the layer are aligned homogenously with a not greater than 10 degrees tilt angle relative to a layer plane.

7. The retarder of claim 6, wherein B<sup>51</sup> is an n-valent group denoted by Formula (V-a);

Formula (V-a)



where Cy<sup>51</sup> is a divalent cyclic group;  $\text{L}^{53}$  is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of a single bond, -alkylene-, -alkenylene-, -alkynylene-, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR-, -SO<sub>2</sub>- and any combinations thereof; Cy<sup>52</sup> is an n-valent cyclic group; and n is an integer from 2 to 12.

8. A circular polarizer comprising:

a linear polarizer film having a transparent axis substantially inclined at +45 degrees or -45 degrees relative to a longitudinal direction thereof,

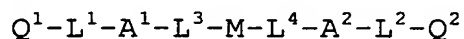
a substrate having a longitudinal direction,

a first optically anisotropic layer formed of a composition comprising a rod-like liquid-crystal compound, in which the rod-like molecules are aligned homogeneously, and substantially generating a phase difference of  $\pi$  at 550 nm, and

a second optically anisotropic layer formed of a composition comprising a rod-like liquid-crystal compound, in which the rod-like molecules are aligned homogeneously, and substantially generating a phase difference of  $\pi/2$  at 550 nm;

wherein at least one of the rod-like liquid-crystal compounds is denoted by Formula (I) below;

Formula (I)



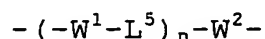
where,  $Q^1$  and  $Q^2$  respectively denote a polymerizable group;  $L^1$ ,  $L^2$ ,  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  respectively denote a single bond or a divalent linking group provided that at least either of  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  represents -O-CO-O-;  $A^1$  and  $A^2$  respectively denote a C2-20 spacer group, and M denotes a mesogen group;

the transparent axis of the linear polarizer film and the longitudinal direction of the substrate cross substantially at +45 degrees or -45 degrees; and

an in-plane slow axis of the second optically anisotropic layer and an in-plane slow axis of the first optically anisotropic layer cross substantially at 60 degrees.

9. The circular polarizer of claim 8, wherein M in the Formula (I) is a group denoted by denotes is denoted by Formula (II):

Formula (II)



where,  $W^1$  and  $W^2$  respectively denote a divalent alicyclic group, divalent aromatic group or divalent heterocyclic group;  $L^5$  denotes a single bond or a linking group; and  $n$  is 1, 2 or 3.

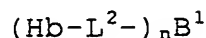
10. The circular polarizer of claim 8, wherein the in-plane slow axis of the first optically anisotropic layer and a longitudinal direction of the substrate cross substantially at +30 degrees; and the in-plane slow axis of the second optically anisotropic layer and the longitudinal direction of the substrate cross substantially at -30 degrees.

11. The circular polarizer of claim 8, wherein a rubbing axis for predetermining an orientation angle of the rod-like molecules in the first optically anisotropic layer and the longitudinal direction of the substrate cross substantially at +30 degrees; and a rubbing axis for predetermining an orientation angle of the rod-like molecules in the second optically anisotropic layer and the longitudinal direction of the substrate cross substantially at -30 degrees.

12. The circular polarizer of claim 11, wherein a surface of the first optically anisotropic layer has the rubbing axis for predetermining an orientation angle of the rod-like molecules in the second optically anisotropic layer.

13. The retarder of claim 8, wherein at least one of the optically anisotropic layers comprises a compound denoted by Formula (V):

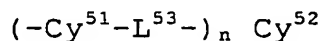
Formula (V)



where Hb denotes a C6-40 aliphatic group or oligosiloxanoxy group having a C4-40 aliphatic group;  $\text{L}^2$  represents a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR<sup>5</sup>-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, an alkylene group, alkenylene group, arylene group and any combinations thereof; R<sup>5</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a C1-6 alkyl group; n represents an integer from 2 to 12; and B<sup>1</sup> represents an n-valent group containing at least three cyclic structures, so that the rod-like molecules in the layer are tilted at not greater than 10 degrees relative to a layer plane.

14. The circular polarizer of claim 13, wherein B<sup>51</sup> is an n-valent group denoted by Formula (V-a);

Formula (V-a)



where Cy<sup>51</sup> is a divalent cyclic group; L<sup>53</sup> is a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of a single bond, -alkylene-, -alkenylene-, -alkynylene-, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -NR-, -SO<sub>2</sub>- and any combinations thereof; Cy<sup>52</sup> is an n-valent cyclic group; and n is an integer from 2 to 12.